Variation in *Cryptocephalus* (*Protophysus*) *wehnckei* Weise, 1882 with a redescription of the poorly known female

(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

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Abstract. A detailed redescription is given of the poorly known female of the chrysomelid beetle *Cryptocephalus* (*Protophysus*) *wehnckei* Weise, 1882, which is endemic to Turkey. Based on a large number of samples collected from Isparta province, we noticed some conspicuous colour variation between and within the males and females of this species, and we illustrate this colour variation. Photographs of the habitus and genital structures are also presented. Some biological features of the species (e.g. mating behaviours, phenology, habitat and host plant information) are described here for the first time.

Key words. *Cryptocephalus* (*Protophysus*) *wehnckei*, variation, redescription, mating behaviour, Turkey.

Introduction

Cryptocephalus wehnckei Weise, 1882 belongs to the subgenus *Protophysus* Chevrolat, 1836, which is represented by five species in the West Palaearctic region. Two of these are also distributed in Turkey: *C*. (*P.*) *schaefferi moehringi* Weise, 1884 and *C*. (*P.*) *wehnckei* (LOPATIN et al. 2010). Of these species, *C*. (*P.*) *wehnckei* is endemic to Turkey and is only distributed in the Mediterranean subarea of Anatolia (SASSI & KISMALI 2000, WARCHAŁOWSKI 2003). Although the male of this species is well-known, the female remained unknown until discovered by SASSI & KISMALI (2000). The first morphological data on the female of the species were given very briefly by SASSI & KISMALI (2000). However, these data are inadequate for distinguishing females and males because there are distinct morphological differences between the sexes in this species. In addition, according to the available literature cited in this paper, the habitat and host plant preference of this species are unknown.

During field surveys performed between 2005 and 2009, a few specimens (males and females) belonging to the subgenus *Protophysus* were collected from different localities. The males in these samples were easily identified as *C*. (*P.*) *wehnckei* but female specimens could not be determined to species. At the time, these samples were considered to be two different *Protophysus* species because of the coloration and morphological pattern of the dorsum. However, during our faunistic surveys in 2010, we observed many mating pairs, with a variety of colours and patterns, on fresh leaves of *Quercus coccifera* L., a typical element of Mediterranean maquis vegetation. As a result of this observation, we decided that the samples belonged to the already well-known males and poorly known females of *C*. (*P.*) *wehnckei*, which show an explicit sexual dimorphism.

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